

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19534

FOL SENT ACTION USMISSION NATO 6/16/78 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/
INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19273

FOR DCM GLITMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, FR
SUBJECT: NATO CONSULTATIONS: SOME FRENCH VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS WITH GOF OFFICIALS INDICATE
THAT SIGNIFICANT PART OF FRENCH POSITION ON NATO
SONCULTATIONS IS INTERTWINED WITH CONCERNS STEMMING
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FROM CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE NINE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 14 VISITING USNATO DCM GLITMAN AND POL/MIL
OFFICER HAD MEETINGS WITH GABRIEL ROBIN (COUNSELOR FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT THE ELYSEE), JACQUES ANDREANI
(DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY), AND
JACQUES DE LA FERRIERE (CHIEF, PACTS AND DISARMAMENT

SERVICE, FOREIGN MINISTRY). NATO CONSULTATIONS WERE DISCUSSED WITH EACH.

3. ROBIN OFFERED THE VIEW THAT CONSULTATIONS AT 15 CAN DETRACT FROM THE SPECIFICITY" OF THE NINE, I.E., THAT ON NON-SECURITY ISSUES THE GOF CONSIDERS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY THE PRINCIPAL MECHANISM FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. GLITMAN RESPONDED THAT MOST POLITICAL--AND ECONOMIC--ISSUES HAVE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS. GLITMAN ALSO UNDERLINED THE VALUE OF ENGAGING THE SMALLER NATO NATIONS IN CONSULTATIONS. ROBIN ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF BOTH POINTS. HE NOTED THAT FROM TIME TO TIME US AND NINE VIEWPOINTS WILL INEVITABLY DIVERGE (E.G., THE MIDDLE EAST) AND OFFERED NO PROSPECT THAT THE GOF WILL RELAX ITS VIGILANCE ON THE CONSULTATIONS ISSUE.

4. ANDREANI PRESENTED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, RAISING THE CONCERN THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NINE WILL USE CONSULTATIONS AT FIFTEEN AS A "COURT OF APPEAL" IN WHICH POSITIONS WORKED OUT IN THE EC CAN BE REOPENED. ANDREANI SAID THAT THE GOF JUST DOES NOT WANT TO OFFER THAT OPPORTUNITY. GLITMAN REMINDED ANDREANI (AS WELL AS THE OTHER TWO IN THE SEPARATE MEETINGS) OF HOW IN THE GENEVA AND HELSINKI PHASES OF CSCE THE NINE HAD FIRST DEVELOPED POSITIONS

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WHICH HAD THEN BEEN WORKED THROUGH AT FIFTEEN. ANDREANI AGREED THAT EXPERIENCE HAD PROVED WORTHWHILE BUT ALLOWED THAT THE QUALITY OF CONSULTATIONS IN THE NINE HAD DIMINISHED, MAKING THINGS MORE DIFFICULT.

5. RE THE RECENT FRENCH ATTEMPT TO BLOCK A MEETING AT NATO TO DISCUSS THE CSCE SCIENCE SESSION, ANDREANI SAID THIS WAS A "MISTAKE", IMPLYING THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE OUTGOING INSTRUCTION WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RESCINDED.

6. DE LA FERRIERE DID NOT RAISE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATO CONSULTATIONS AND THE NINE. HE CITED TRADITIONAL GOF RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SCOPE OF NATO INTERESTS, DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIMITS ON GISCARD, AND IMPROVED COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS WHICH MIGHT BE COMPROMISED IF THE GOF WAS SEEN TO BE LESS GAULLIST THAN IN PAST YEARS.

7. ALL THREE INTERLOCUTEURS AGREED THAT WE WILL DO WELL TO TRY TO AVOID QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE BUT RATHER WORK TO REACH PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS TO THESE RECURRING

DIFFERENCES.

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